



City of Santa Barbara Recycled Water Program and Policies

The City of Santa Barbara's Recycled Water Project delivers tertiary treated wastewater to over 48 sites which use approximately 800 acre feet per year. The Recycled Water Project was developed in two phases: Phase I was completed in July 1989 and Phase II was completed in May 1991.

California Water Law (Title 22) regulates recycled water use. The law states that the following uses are approved for tertiary treated recycled water (City's recycled water):

Irrigation of: food crops, orchards, all landscaping (residential, commercial and public), and pasture for animals.

Supply for impoundment (lakes/ponds): nonrestricted recreational impoundments (swimming allowed), fish hatcheries, and landscape impoundments.

Supply for cooling or air conditioning: industrial or commercial cooling or air conditioning with cooling tower, evaporative condenser, or spraying that creates a mist

Other uses: flushing toilets and urinals, priming drain traps, industrial process water that may contact workers, structural and nonstructural fire fighting, decorative fountains, commercial laundries, consolidation of backfill material around potable water pipelines, artificial snow making, industrial boiler feed, soil compaction, mixing concrete, dust control on roads and streets, flushing sanitary sewers, and cleaning roads, sidewalks and outdoor work areas.

The City's policy (and State law) is to require recycled water for irrigation for: multiple family developments, developments with common area irrigated lots, and commercial developments that are adjacent to the recycled water main line. (City Municipal Code 14.23.010-14.23.030.) The City's policy is to encourage but not require all other uses. Single family residential parcels adjacent to the recycled water main line are not required but are encouraged to use recycled water on their sites.

There are plan specifications that must be followed for recycled water, a user agreement that must be recorded and other review requirements that all sites must go through before the recycled water meter is issued.

For more information, contact Peggy Avila, Recycled Water/ Cross Connection Control Specialist, at 564-5413, or Alison Jordan, Water Resources Specialist, at 564-5574.